

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE

A meeting of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2002 at 4:30 p.m.in the Wyndham Hotel. The meeting was open to the public. Notice of the meeting had been posted. The members of the Conference in attendance were:

Members from the Electronic News Media

Chris Carl  
Johnnie Braxton

Members from the Bench

President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely

Members from the Bar

Richard D. Kirk, Esquire  
Kathleen Jennings-Hostetter, Esquire  
Don C. Brown, Esquire

The first agenda item was the approval of the draft minutes from the July 10, 2002 and October 7, 2002 meetings of the Conference. Upon motion which was duly seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

The next agenda item was the Election of Officers. This item was passed because of the lack of a quorum. Steve Taylor was directed to arrange a telephone conference call for the purpose of nominating candidates and holding an election.

Under Old Business, there was a brief discussion of the Proposed Administrative Directive / Rule for Expanded Media Coverage. The Delaware State Bar Association requested additional time to submit the Association's position on the

Conference's proposed experiment. This request was granted. President Judge Ridgely reported that the cost of equipping a courtroom for television coverage would be between \$25,000 - \$30,000 according to information obtained from national experts. Steve Taylor related that the Supreme Court's experience with cameras in the courtroom has been extremely positive.

It was noted that the Bar-Bench-Media Dinner would immediately follow the Conference's meeting. It was anticipated that the dinner would be a success.

Under New Business, President Judge Ridgely stated that the 2003 Essay Contest on the Independence of the Judiciary and Freedom of the Press would follow the same format as the 2002 contest. President Judge Ridgely volunteered to take the lead on the Essay Contest. He said that he would notify the Delaware Public High School principals of the contest in January 2003.

The final agenda item was the scheduling of the next Conference meeting. The Conference members present decided to meet on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 at 12:30 p.m. in the Supreme Court Large Conference Room in Wilmington. Lunch will be provided.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

March 10, 2003